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Thank you for reading The Conaway Chronicle, a weekly review of my activities in Congress. This newsletter is to let you know what's going on in Washington and what important issues are being debated in Congress.

S-CHIP – COVERING OUR CHILDREN



Last week, the House voted to pass H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. I strongly support the S-CHIP program and believe that it should be reauthorized and extended, but only on a rational basis. The bill that passed the House does not do that. This bill is fatally flawed in that it crowds out private insurance, raises taxes, and uses a budget gimmick to avoid the House PAYGO rules. The gimmick is an unrealistic promise to cut the spending in the program by 80 percent in the year 2012. The funding source of increased tobacco taxes is also unreliable in that an increase in taxes will, in all likelihood, reduce the number of smokers, which means less revenue over time. With a promised Presidential veto that should be sustained by the House, it is my hope that we will be able to form a bipartisan compromise that reauthorizes this important program. [Click here](#) to get more facts on the flawed SCHIP legislation.

TEXAS WINE GOES TO WASHINGTON

I am proud to announce my Sponsorship of [House Concurrent Resolution 216](#), an act recognizing the wine and grape industry of Texas for having a \$1 billion impact on the economy of



Texas. The wine industry of Texas has grown exponentially over the past decade. Since 2000, the industry has seen 30 percent growth rate, making Texas the fifth most productive State in wine production. This growth has been made possible by the many family-owned wineries that have been established throughout Texas. From the grower to the bottler, and even some grape-stompers in between, each winery requires many employees and the Texas wine industry has provided 8,000 full-time jobs and has paid over \$234,000,000 in wages to workers. The manufacturing, purchasing, and consumption of Texas wine continues to make an invaluable impact on our economy. I am proud to introduce H.Con. Res. 216 to the U.S. Congress to recognize and commend the hard-working Texans who have helped to make life in Texas a little sweeter.

INCREASING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

During the month of October, we will observe National Domestic Violence Awareness month. As I work in Congress to pass legislation to provide leadership in the ongoing effort against domestic violence, I will personally remember three heroes from Odessa, Texas who recently lost their lives responding to an act of domestic violence.

On September 8, 2007, Corporal Arlie Jones, Corporal John (Scott) Gardner and Corporal Abel Marquez, all of the Odessa Police Department, answered their final call of duty: a 9-1-1 domestic

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disturbance call. These three officers were shot and killed in the line of duty, and will forever be remembered by everyone whose lives they touched. These three men made the ultimate sacrifice under the oath they took to defend and protect, and for that they will never be forgotten.

[Click here](#) to watch my floor speech on these three remarkable men.

FARM BILL UPDATE

The 2002 Farm Bill expired Sunday, September 30th. Although all necessary programs were extended in a Concurrent Resolution that continued to fund the government until November 16, 2007 it is of vital importance that the Senate act soon to ensure that our producers are not left out in the cold without credible farm policy. I will continue to push the Senate and ultimately the House/Senate Conference to create a farm bill that is in the best interests of rural America. [Click here](#) to read an article in the San Angelo Standard-Times regarding the Farm Bill expiration.

TO IRAQ AND BACK: THE VIDEO

While in Iraq, I was able to shoot some video so that ya'll could get a feel for the morale of our troops and share in my experiences in the Middle East. [Click here](#) to watch the video.



The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at www.house.gov/conaway or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at www.conawayblog.com!

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Washington, D.C. Office
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: (202) 225-3605
fax: (202) 225-1783

San Angelo, TX Office
33 Twohig, Suite 307
San Angelo, TX 76903
phone: (325) 659-4010
fax: (325) 659-4014

Midland, TX Office
6 Desta Drive, Suite
2000
Midland, TX 79705
phone: (432) 687-2390
fax: (432) 687-0277

Llano Regional Office

County Annex
104 W. Sandstone
Llano, TX 78643
phone: (325) 247-2826
fax: (325) 247-2676

Odessa Office

City Hall
411 W. 8th Street, 5th Floor
Odessa, TX 79761
phone: (432) 331-9667
fax: (432) 332-6538
Toll Free in Texas
(866) 882-3811

E-mail Congressman Conaway

Brownwood Office

Brownwood City Hall
501 Center Ave.
Brownwood, TX 76801
phone: (325) 646-1950
fax: (325) 646-2979

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